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"And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

"Signed on behalf of the International Arbitration and Peace Association,

"HODGSON PRATT, *Chairman*.

"WM. MARTIN WOOD, *Vice-Chairman*.

"JOHN M. GRANT, *Hon. Treasurer*.

"J. FREDK. GREEN, *Secretary*."

ABSTRACT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LONDON PEACE SOCIETY, 1894.

The Annual Report of the Peace Society, 47 New Broad Street, London, E. C., notices with satisfaction the continuing progress of INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION during the past year, as evidenced by the settlement, by that means, of the Behring Sea dispute and several other similar international difficulties.

It also records as encouraging, the recent activity of several of the religious denominations, on behalf of Peace, together with the new organization of "THE ARBITRATION ALLIANCE OF BRITISH CHRISTIANS," a body which includes amongst its members the ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN, the BISHOP OF DORHAM, CANON FREMANTLE, CANON WILBERFORCE, and many others, including the President of the Peace Society, SIR J. W. PEASE, BART., M.P., and the Secretary, DR. W. E. DARBY.

The Peace Society made vigorous efforts last Christmas to secure, throughout the country, an effective observance of "PEACE SUNDAY." With this object it printed and distributed fifty thousand tracts, issued 17,250 circulars to ministers, and so secured 1700 sermons in behalf of the cause. And in connection with its regular course of meetings, it has organized a number of LECTURES illustrated by magic lantern slides. These have given great satisfaction.

The Society prepared (at an expense of £60) a beautiful SET OF DIAGRAMS, on Peace and War, as its contribution to the exhibits of the WORLD'S FAIR AT CHICAGO. And the PEACE CONGRESS held last year, in that city, was attended by the Secretary, DR. DARBY, who took an active share in the proceedings.

Although owing to increased expenditure in other directions, fewer meetings have been held than last year, yet the use, at home, both of the PLATFORM and the PRESS, has been perseveringly maintained. The Society also continues its PARIS BUREAU, in a central position in that city.

The Report criticises the "BOYS' BRIGADE," the real tendency of which has just been declared by its chairman LORD ROBERTS to be the "promotion of military feeling" and a "longing to fight the enemies of England." The Peace Society asserts that this object is quite opposed to the professed object of the Brigade, which is alleged to be "the advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys." In contrast with this, the Report states that a special department of the Peace Society's work is devoted to the visitation of SUNDAY SCHOOLS, in order to diffuse, amongst the scholars, principles of human brotherhood and concord.

SIR JOSEPH PEASE ON THE CONDITION OF EUROPE.

"There never was a time, probably, when there was so much preparation for war, made by almost all the Powers. I am one of those who have advocated from this platform the high type of Christian morality, as regards war. But when we leave Christianity alone, when we look at merely the moral and the financial aspect of the present state of things, it must strike every man as absurd to think that nations who are communicating daily with each other, by steamer, telegraph and railway, should be spending such enormous sums of money, and training so many men for the mere purpose of destroying one another. The thing almost seems horribly grotesque, when you look at it. Then we come to the puzzle which Government feels with regard to ways and means. We have a Chancellor of the Exchequer puzzled at this very moment. Some of us, looking on, are not very much annoyed that Government after Government, whether Liberal or Tory, finds the difficulty in raising money for appliances of war comes heavier and heavier. If it comes heavy on this country, which is the richest and most able to meet its liabilities, it comes much harder upon those who are endeavoring with less funds to increase their armaments. My hope has always been in the union of the different Churches, and in every section of the Christian Church uniting in one common cause; and I often wish that my friend, Mr. Henry Richard, was again with us, because he used to tell us he was disappointed with the manner in which the Christian Church did not unite in this cause. Now I believe we have sent out something like ten thousand circulars to the different Ministers of religion asking them to deal with the subject in an annual sermon. The kindness of the response is remarkable, and the large number who have responded is one of those good signs of the times in which I think we may all rejoice.

It is well, I think, just to look for a moment at what the armies are, at the present time. On a peace footing, there are 3,747,000 men, on a war footing 21,000,000. On a peace footing, in 1869, there were 2,000,000, in 1892, 3,000,000. On a war footing in 1869, 6,900,000, and in 1892, 12,500,000. The cost in 1869, was £116,000,000, in 1892, £198,000,000. Therefore, in Europe alone, we are spending £72,000,000 more than we were, as lately as 1869. I believe there are comparatively few people who look at this question, as a question affecting work and wages, although money that is spent on unproductive industry is simply wasted money. I have not the slightest doubt that going back into the pocket of the taxpayers it would be used in industrial pursuits, in employing the industries of nations, and in preventing that of which every nation is now complaining."

A conference of members of the British and French Chambers of Commerce was held in Paris on the 22d of June to discuss the question of a general European disarmament. The consensus of opinion was that disarmament would have most serious effect upon labor, as it would add the 3,750,000 men now armed and supported by their Governments to the ranks of the unemployed.

Why did not these wise business men think to suggest that it would be much cheaper for the Governments to support these men at home than under arms?